

Shaun Isaacs – attendee of the Madonna Place Fatherhood Initiative Program

I have been attending the 24/7 Dad Fatherhood Initiative class for several weeks. In that time, I have gained a wealth of knowledge on how to be a better dad for my two sons and my stepson. Each class tackles a different topic and helps me greatly. I implore this committee to not cut any funding, so that other fathers can also receive the education and the help that this program offers.

Sincerely,

Shaun Isaacs

Larry Thibeault – attendee of the Madonna Place Fatherhood Initiative Program

I recently attended a 12 week course at Madonna Place for fathers called 24/7 Dad. Jason and all of the other employees there are great. They make us feel welcome and teach us a lot of ways to be active, caring fathers and co-parents. The skills they provide when put to use are priceless, and I can't thank this program enough for the value it has provided to me. Madonna Place would benefit from keeping their funding in place in order to be able to assist fathers, since there are not many places that are around to help teach fathers these skills. This program is so useful to me and the other fathers in the group and I ask that the program keeps getting funded so they can continue to offer services and grow to help more fathers.

Sincerely,

Larry Thibeault

Nadir Harrison – attendee of the Madonna Place Fatherhood Initiative Program

This program has given me tools that I've been able to implement in my day to day life with communicating with the mother of my child and co-parenting skills which are necessary to provide a sound upbringing to my child. Through the past 5 months I've reached out to a plethora of agencies all geared towards women looking for help when it comes to parenting. These agencies ranged from supportive housing to life skills management, and I wasn't able to find what I needed from these community programs. Taking away resources and funding will make it harder for me to get the support that I need and have gotten from the Fatherhood Program at Madonna Place. I would like to see more programs, more funding, and more resources on behalf of fathers, for that matter. As a single working man I find it difficult to find services that will help me, because I don't have a substance abuse problem or diagnosed mental health issues. I just need support and help with parenting and being a father to my son while I work on finding housing to reunify with my child since I'm working with DCF right now. Connecticut should be revered as a human state, a state that values the sense and wholesomeness of family, and I think that reaching out and providing more funding for programs that focus on fathers is a big step in the right direction. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Nadir Harrison